



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Catawba County commissioner wins statewide award

Catawba County Commissioner Kitty Barnes was named one of two winners of the “Outstanding County Commissioner of the Year” for 2006-07 by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) during its 100th Annual Conference, which was held Aug. 16-19 in Cumberland County.

She was elected NCACC third vice president in August 2002 after serving on the NCACC Board of Directors for two years as a district director representing Catawba, Caldwell, Burke and Alexander counties. She served as NCACC President for 2005-06 and actively represented the Association in Washington, D.C., and in Raleigh, on several critical legislative issues, including Medicaid relief.

“We would not have achieved Medicaid relief this session were it not for the involvement of Past President Barnes,” said outgoing NCACC President Terry Garrison, who chose Barnes and Edgecombe County Commissioner Viola Harris for the award. “She was constantly in touch with legislators and helped keep the issue at the forefront during this session.”

Barnes was originally elected to the Catawba County Board of Commissioners in 1998. She currently serves as the chair of the Board of Commissioners. Prior to becoming a county commissioner, she served for 12 years as a member of the Catawba County Board of Education.

The outstanding county commissioner award has been presented annually since 1964. It was renamed the M.H. “Jack” Brock Award in honor of Brock, a former Harnett County Commissioner who served as NCACC President in 1973-74 and who won the award in 1981.

The award is presented each year at the NCACC Annual Conference to recognize a commissioner for outstanding work on behalf of every North Carolina county.

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The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is the official voice of all 100 counties on issues being considered by the General Assembly, Congress and federal and state agencies. The Association provides expertise to counties in the areas of lobbying, fiscal and legal research, communications, intergovernmental relations, information technology, field visits and risk management services.